

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 MC-02 /042 W
-----281130 071388 /22

P R 280840Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6489
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2937

CINCPAC FOR POLAD ALSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINS, PINT, RP
SUBJECT: ENRILE REQUESTS MILITARY ITEMS AND COMMENTS PESSIM-
ISTICALLY ON PEACE PROSPECTS IN THE MUSLIM SOUTH

REF: MANILA 2456

1. SUMMARY. NATIONAL DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE CALLED IN
BGEN MAPP OF JUSMAG ON FEB. 26 1) TO STRESS THAT THE AFP
NEEDS 20 MM AMMUNITION AND 60 MM MORTAR ROUNDS AND 2) TO INDICATE
THAT MARCOS IS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING "SMART BOMBS". ENRILE
SAID THAT THE CEASEFIRE IN THE MUSLIM SOUTH MAY BREAK-
DOWN AND THE AFP MUST BE PREPARED. ENRILE NOTED THAT
THE AFP BELIEVES THE MUSLIM REBLES ARE CONTINUING TO BE
SUPPLIED WITH EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING SA-7S. HE SAID THAT SOME
EQUIPMENT MAY COME FROM INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH THE GOI MAY NOT
REPEAT NO BE AWARE OF THIS. BGEN MAPP SAID DETAILED
INFORMATION ON CRITICALITY OF SITUATION IN SOUTH
WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR JUSMAG TO GAIN PRIORITY FOR
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PHILIPPINE REQUIREMENTS IN WORLDWIDE U.S. SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. ENRILE SAID HE WOULD ASK AUTHORITY
FROM MARCOS FOR JUST MAG TO USE COMMENTS HE (ENRILE) MADE.
AMBASSADOR WILL SEE ENRILE LATER TODAY FOLLOWING ENRILE'S PARTI-
CIPATION IN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING (CHAIRMANED BY MARCOS AND
PRESUMABLY ON THE MUSLIM ISSUE). AMBASSADOR'S MEETING
WITH ENRILE WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE CALLED IN BGEN MAPP OF JUSMAG FEBRUARY 26 TO STRESS PERSONALLY THE AFP'S NEED FOR 20 MM AMMUNITION AND 60 MM MORTAR ROUNDS (JUSMAG HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE AFP ON THIS REQUEST FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS). ENRILE ALSO EXPRESSED MARCOS' INTEREST IN ACQUIRING "SMART BOMBS", A PROBABLY REFERENCE TO THE WALLEYE AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE. ENRILE CONVEYED CONCERN THAT THE AFP BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR A RESURGENCE OF HOSTILITIES IN THE EVENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN TRIPLI COLLAPSE. ENRILE SAID THAT "THERE IS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE THE THE CEASEFIRE WILL NOT (REPEAT NOT) HOLD."

3. ENRILE SKETCHED THE U.S. INTO THE PICTURE IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "THE U.S. IS OUR BEST AND REALLY ONLY FRIEND REGARDLESS OF OUR ACTIONS IN SEEKING RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE A MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S., HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT NOT TO INVOLVE THE U.S. IN THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH, FOR WE RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. WE CAN HANLE THE FIGHTING, HOWEVER, WE DO NEED SUPPLIES." ENRILE WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT THE GOP BELIEVES THAT THE MUSLIM REBELS ARE BEING SUPPLIED WITH AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT IN THE SOUTH FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES-- "SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS THOUGHT TO BE COMING FROM INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THESE ACTIVITIES." ENRILE SAID THAT THE EQUIPMENT BEING SUPPLIED TO MUSLIM REBELS INCLUDES THE SA-7 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE.

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4. ENRILE SAID THAT MARCOS HAS ATTEMPTED TO ACCOMMODATE TO MNLF DEMANDS, HOWEVER, CERTAIN OF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOW TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. SPECIFICALLY, TRIPOLI AND THE MNLF ARE DEMANDING; 1) THEIR OWN CONSTITUION, GOVERNMENT AND FLAG AS A SEPARATE REPUBLIC AND 2) THEIR OWN ARMED FORCES AT A STRENGTH OF 25 PERCENT OF THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE AFP (THIS WOULD MEAN A FORMAL MORO MILITARY FORCE OF 30,000 TO 35,000.). REFERRING TO THESE TWO DEMANDS, ENRILE SAID THAT "SPEAKING FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, WE WILL NOT ALLOW SUCH A THING TO HAPPEN."

5. ENRILE SAID THAT MANY REBELS HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT OBSERVED THE CONDITION OF THE CEASEFIRE, NOTING THAT SOME MILITARY UNITS AND SOME CIVILIANS ARE STILL BEING AMBUSHED. ENRILE SAID THAT "THE AFP IS PREPARING TO CONDUCT A MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST THESE REBEL GROUPS IN THE SOUTH."

6. BGEN MAPP ASSURED ENRILE THAT JUSMAG WOULD DO EVERY-

THING WITHIN ITS AUTHORITY TO ASSIST THE GOP IN ITS REQUESTS FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES BUT INDICATED THAT WITHOUT A DETAILED INDICATION OF THE CRITICALITY OF THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH, JUSMAG WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY GAINING PRIORITY WITHIN THE WORLDWIDE USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE AFP REQUIREMENTS. ENRILE SAID THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH MARCOS ON WHETHER JUSMAG COULD USE THE COMMENTS HE (ENRILE) MADE.

7. MARCOS IS CHAIRING TODAY A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (INCLUDES ENRILE AND THE AFP SERVICE CHIEFS). AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PRIMARY SUBJECTS ARE THE CEASE-FIRE, THE NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MUSLIM PROBLEM. THE AMBASSADOR WILL SEE ENRILE LATER IN THE DAY FOR A READING ON THESE MATTERS AND WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY. DETAILED EMBASSY/JUSMAG RECOMMENDATIONS ON AFP ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM ENRILE AND ESPINO (REFTEL) CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN WE HAVE CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE PROMPTED THEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977023/aaaaacpt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 2456
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3289688
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENRILE REQUESTS MILITARY ITEMS AND COMMENTS PESSIM- ISTICALLY ON PEACE PROSPECTS IN THE MUSLIM SOUTH
TAGS: MASS, PINS, PINT, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ff8517c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009